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SEP 28 2006

In the Specification

Please amend ¶ [0021] as follows:

[0021] To gain a quantitative understanding of the scope of the problem caused by recirculating blood, exemplary recirculation rates determined experimentally are describe below. For an exemplary conventional staggered tip catheter with inlet and outlet orifices displaced longitudinally relative to one another, the recirculation rate in the normal [[more]] mode of operation is about 0.4% while for the reverse mode of operation the recirculation rate is about 20.9%. In contrast, exemplary embodiments of a catheter tip according to the present invention provide recirculation rates in the normal mode of between about 0.4% and 2.4%, with reverse mode recirculation rates of between about 6.3% and about 7.8%. As can be seen, the exemplary embodiments according to the present invention provide a substantial reduction of the amount of blood (or other fluid or mixture of fluids) which recirculates in the reverse mode of operation of the catheter, while maintaining a normal mode recirculation comparable to that of the conventional catheters.